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**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the present application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A financial services outsourcing method for facilitating a direct service provider's management of human resources for providing financial services to numerous clients, the financial services being outsourced to an outsourcing group abroad, the method comprising:

for plural respective direct services providers, loading, onto a remotely accessible part of a common host server located in a given country, client specific financial files and corresponding reference materials, the host server providing access to a remote computer client of information concerning the ultimate client specific financial files and corresponding reference materials;

retaining outsourced personnel to perform tax return preparation services for clients of the direct service providers during a tax season in a given year and to perform other financial service projects for the clients of the direct service providers during a different season of the given year, the outsourced personnel preparing the tax returns and performing the other financial service projects while in an outsource country different from the given country;

providing the outsourced personnel limited access to the server;

the outsourced personnel performing the tax return preparation services during the tax season in the given year and performing the financial service project projects during a different season of the given year through a remote limited access client located in the outsource country; and

monitoring and reporting the status of the tax return preparation and of the other financial service projects.

2. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the tax return preparation services comprise individual tax return preparation services.

3. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the tax returns and other financial services are outsourced through an intermediary firm to the outsourced personnel.

4. (Original) The method according to claim 3, wherein the other financial service projects comprise bookkeeping projects.

5. (Original) The method according to claim 3, further comprising the intermediary service firm interacting with the outsourced personnel through use of a servicing computer system, and interacting with the plural direct service providers through use of the servicing computer system.

6. (Original) The method according to claim 3, wherein the direct service providers comprise accounting firms.

7. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the host server provides limited screen shot access to the remote client computer of information concerning the client specific financial files and corresponding reference materials.

8. (Original) The method according to claim 7, wherein the host server comprises a CITRIX server.

9. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 4, wherein the host server provides limited screen shot access to the remote client computer of information concerning the ultimate client specific financial files and corresponding reference materials.

10. (Original) The method according to claim 9, wherein the host server comprises a CITRIX server.

11. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the host server comprises an ASP server running tax software for use by plural independent direct service providers provided with access to the ASP server.

12. (Original) The method according to claim 4, wherein the host server comprises an ASP server running tax software for use by plural independent direct service providers provided with access to the ASP server.

13-20 (Cancelled).

21. (New) Apparatus comprising:

    a tracker configured to log certain tax return status indications and including stored data representations of actual logged status indications; and

the tracker including a tax service provider interface configured to receive tax service provider status change events from a computer system, the tax service provider status change events including a ready for access event indicating that a tax preparation process for a given client is at a stage where both a tax file and supporting e-documentation are ready for access by given personnel.

22. (New) The apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the tracker includes a web tracker.

23. (New) The apparatus according to claim 22, wherein the actual logged status indications include an in-take indication representing that an in-take processing has occurred for a given tax return of the given client.

24. (New) The apparatus according to claim 22, wherein the actual logged status indications include an assignment indication representing the given client, representing a given United States tax return preparation task for the given client, and representing that the given tax return preparation task has been assigned to the given personnel.

25. (New) The apparatus according to claim 24, wherein the given client is in the United States and wherein the given personnel includes personnel located outside the United States.

26. (New) The apparatus according to claim 22, wherein the actual logged status indications further include an e-documents available indication representing that certain e-documents required for preparing a given tax return preparation task have been made available to the given personnel.

27. (New) The apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the tax service provider status change events further include a question answered event indicating that a tax service provider has answered a question of the given personnel.

28. (New) The apparatus according to claim 27, wherein the question answered event indicates that the tax preparation process for the given client is at a stage where answers have been provided to an outsourcing group computer system of the given personnel in response to questions of an individual tax return preparer.

29. (New) The apparatus according to claim 28, wherein the preparer is outside of the United States.

30. (New) The apparatus according to claim 29, wherein the preparer is located in India.

31. (New) A financial services outsourcing method for facilitating a direct service provider's management of financial services to numerous clients, the financial services being outsourced to an outsourcing group abroad, the method comprising:

for plural respective direct service providers, loading, onto a remotely accessible part of a common host server located in a given country, client specific financial files and corresponding reference materials, the host server providing access to a remote computer client of information concerning the client specific financial files and the corresponding reference materials; and

retaining personnel outside the given country to perform tax return preparation services for clients of the direct service providers during a tax season.

32. (New) A financial services outsourcing method for facilitating a direct service provider's outsourcing of financial services for numerous ultimate clients, the financial services being outsourced to an outsourcing group abroad, the method comprising:

for plural respective direct services providers, loading, onto a remotely accessible part of a common host server located in the United States, client specific financial files and corresponding reference materials, the host server providing access to a remote computer client of information concerning the client specific financial files and corresponding reference materials;

retaining outsourced personnel to perform financial service projects for respective clients of the financial services firms, the outsourced personnel performing the financial service projects while located outside the United States;

providing the outsourced personnel limited access to the server;

the outsourced personnel performing the financial service projects through a remote limited access client located outside the United States connected to the host server; and monitoring and reporting the status of the financial service projects.

33. (New) A financial services outsourcing method for facilitating outsourcing of tax return preparation services for numerous clients on behalf of plural direct service providers serving the numerous clients, the financial services being outsourced to a given outsourcing group, the clients comprising a first set of clients in a first country, having tax return filing

obligations for the first country, and comprising a second set of clients in a second country having tax return filing obligations for the second country, the method comprising:

for plural respective direct services providers, loading, onto a remotely accessible part of a common host server, client specific financial files and corresponding reference materials, the host server providing access to a remote computer client of information concerning the client specific financial files and the corresponding reference materials;

retaining outsourced personnel to prepare a set of tax returns including tax returns for both the first set of clients and the second set of clients, the outsourced personnel preparing the set of tax returns while located outside the first and second countries;

providing the outsourced personnel limited access to the host server;

the outsourced personnel preparing the set of tax returns through a remote limited access client located outside the first and second countries connected to the host server; and

monitoring and reporting the status of each of the returns in the set of tax returns.